

his novel idea to raise money for this worthy cause. We wish Tom luck on his journey and look forward to welcoming him to Citrus County when he finishes his run.

HONORING FAMILY SERVICES INC.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of Family Services Incorporated, a non-profit organization located in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Family Services Incorporated has worked to provide vital services to the community.

Known at its founding as the Blair County Children's Aid Society, the organization was created to aid in the care and eventual adoption of abused and neglected children. A community-wide evaluation found that there was a need for a nonprofit agency to offer capable social work services aimed toward resolving individual, marital and family problems in 1967 and 1968. The United Way agency provided funding for Family and Children's Service of Blair County so it could provide programming and services to meet those needs. Throughout the 1970s, the agency established a residential program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Throughout the 1980s the agency served victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and runaway and homeless children. In 1997 the agency officially became Family Services Incorporated.

Led by a dedicated board of directors and management team, Family Services Incorporated is always willing to adjust programming for adults and children who seek its services. It has constantly endeavored to build healthier relationships within the community. Dedicated staff provide services through the Domestic Abuse Project, Crime Victim Support Services, Street Wise Outreach and Opportunity Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Emergency Shelter for Men, Men helping Men, Developmental Disabilities Program, Protection from Abuse Office, Women Aware and Counseling.

Family Services Incorporated has provided a trustworthy atmosphere which has worked to help a multitude of men, women, and children throughout its history. I look forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of such a wonderful organization, as it has brought a greater appreciation to our area and has surely been an asset to the community. I would like to wish Family Services Incorporated all the best in its future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on February 12, 2008, due to inclement weather. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 43–45.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall vote 43—H. Res. 954, non-

oring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008; "aye" on rollcall vote 44—H. Res. 909, commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah" and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery; and "aye" on rollcall vote 45—H. Con. Res. 238, celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the House Democratic and Republican leadership and to our colleagues in the Senate for the bipartisan effort that has produced timely, targeted, and temporary legislation to stimulate our Nation's slowing economy. I am also pleased that the legislation we are about to consider ensures that our Nation's senior citizens and disabled veterans are not left out of this worthwhile package.

Because of my concerns that the bill we considered last week did not include low-income seniors and disabled, I led the effort in the House to ensure that those who depend entirely on their Social Security checks were included in the final version of this legislation. I am very pleased that the Senate agreed and expanded the economic stimulus package to provide these Americans with much-needed relief. I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same.

Our Nation's seniors and disabled veterans are facing difficult economic times. For years, these men and women have been forced to survive on less and less as their costs continue to increase and their incomes remain the same. These Americans need cash rebates just as much as the individuals originally included in the stimulus package.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation we are about to vote on includes language that would ensure that illegal immigrants do not receive cash benefits that should only go to those who rightfully deserve them. This language mirrors legislation that I introduced in the House today.

Finally, the bill before us contains an important provision that I helped to craft as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises. This reform will temporarily increase the conforming loan limits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to enhance the liquidity of our mortgage markets. I support this short-term change.

Madam Speaker, once again I wish to applaud the efforts of both the Members of the House and Senate in crafting legislation that will spur our economy, provide rebates to those that need them most, and ensure that those ineligible for federal benefits do not receive them.

COMPETING CURRENCIES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the concept of competing currencies. Currency, or money, is what allows civilization to flourish. In the absence of money, barter is the name of the game; if the farmer needs shoes, he must trade his eggs and milk to the cobbler and hope that the cobbler needs eggs and milk. Money makes the transaction process far easier. Rather than having to search for someone with reciprocal wants, the farmer can exchange his milk and eggs for an agreed-upon medium of exchange with which he can then purchase shoes.

This medium of exchange should satisfy certain properties: It should be durable, that is to say, it does not wear out easily; it should be portable, that is, easily carried; it should be divisible into units usable for everyday transactions: it should be recognizable and uniform, so that one unit of money has the same properties as every other unit; it should be scarce, in the economic sense, so that the extant supply does not satisfy the wants of everyone demanding it; it should be stable, so that the value of its purchasing power does not fluctuate wildly; and it should be reproducible, so that enough units of money can be created to satisfy the needs of exchange.

Over millennia of human history, gold and silver have been the two metals that have most often satisfied these conditions, survived the market process, and gained the trust of billions of people. Gold and silver are difficult to counterfeit, a property which ensures they will always be accepted in commerce. It is precisely for this reason that gold and silver are anathema to governments. A supply of gold and silver that is limited in supply by nature cannot be inflated, and thus serves as a check on the growth of government. Without the ability to inflate the currency, governments find themselves constrained in their actions, unable to carry on wars of aggression or to appease their overtaxed citizens with bread and circuses.

At this country's founding, there was no government controlled national currency. While the Constitution established the Congressional power of minting coins, it was not until 1792 that the U.S. Mint was formally established. In the meantime, Americans made do with foreign silver and gold coins. Even after the Mint's operations got underway, foreign coins continued to circulate within the United States, and did so for several decades.

On the desk in my office I have a sign that says: "Don't steal—the government hates competition." Indeed, any power a government arrogates to itself, it is loathe to give back to the people. Just as we have gone from a constitutionally-instituted national defense consisting of a limited army and navy bolstered by militias and letters of marque and reprisal, we have moved from a system of competing currencies to a government-instituted banking cartel that monopolizes the issuance of currency. In order to introduce a system of competing currencies, there are three steps that must be taken to produce a legal climate favorable to competition.